GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2143
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2002
G.M. TECHNOLOGY
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present private sector dominance on GM Technology threatens to create a property right system, where a few large firms would own patents and control the use of plant materials;

(b) if so, the whether it will lead to destruction of competitive market and threaten both the traditional varieties grown by farmers and the role of national research on agriculture;

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the measures, the Government propose to take to meet such a situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (d): Plant varieties, including genetically modified crop varieties are eligible for protection under the Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers Rights Act, 2001. Under this Act, traditional/extant varieties can also be registered. The Act also provides for compulsory licensing for production, distribution and sale of seeds or other propagating material of registered varieties if the same are not available to the public in reasonable quantity and at reasonable price. The Act also protects farmers` rights to save, use, sow, resow, exchange, share or sell their farm produce including seed of a protected variety except to sell branded seed of the protected variety.